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whose life is the most free from error, and who endeavours to regulate his conduct by the unerring standard of justice and truth.

To plead for, and to hasten the coming of this day, as far as their influence and example extends, should be the work of all who wish well to the best interests of man.

N.S.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

YOUR correspondent, "A County Carlow Peasant," was mistaken in the account he gave in your last number, of a *Northern* outrage, if he alluded to a transaction which took place in this neighbourhood a few years ago. Two giddy young men, "in all the madness of superfluous health," and perhaps with the impudence of thinking that every thing became them, because they considered themselves as gentlemen, amused themselves by shooting with pistols at the cats and dogs on the sides of the road, on their return from Dublin, and in one instance, in the pursuit of this *elegant and highly refined amusement*, fired into a cabin on the road side. One of them now holds a high civil station, and the other is in a clerical character in a town not far remote from yourselves, but it is hoped they have long since been convinced of their folly.

Your correspondent is, however, very much mistaken in saying no notice was taken of their misconduct. A public-spirited individual in this town had a prosecution instituted against the delinquents. The bills of indictment were found against them at the Assizes at Downpatrick, and then they *tardily* consented to submit the matter to the arbitration of two lawyers. They were made to pay pretty smartly for their outrage, the costs of law,

and recompense to the sufferer, amounting to not less than £100. In this case, the North fully maintained its character of INDEPENDENCE. It would be well for the South, if their Nimrods were forced to be equally amenable to the law. If the peasantry were fully protected in their persons and properties, we should hear less of nightly outrage. Circumstances form the character of a people. The obsequious Slave of the day, unprotected and trodden upon, retaliates on the injustice of society, by his nightly depredations.

DETECTOR.

Banbridge.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

SKETCH OF A TOUR TO CARRICK-AREDE BRIDGE.

NOTHING of importance interested our attention; until we arrived at the venerable ruins of the ancient castle of Dunluce. The morning was calm and beautiful. Not one cloud intercepted our extended view of the ocean, and the neighbouring islands. The Sun had just risen a little above the horizon, and with his first rays tinged the dark brows of the projecting cliffs with which we were surrounded. We approached and entered the ruins, impressed with that pleasing kind of melancholy, which is inspired by sublime objects. A dull quiescence was inscribed on the neighbouring landscape, except when interrupted by the screams of sea-birds, and the bleating of the sheep on the neighbouring hills. The sea was unruffled by a breeze. "Sweet emblem," said one of my companions, looking into the green bosom of the ocean, "sweet emblem of peace and tranquillity!" "Yes," added Mr. —, meditating deeply of human life, "to-day the sun of

prosperity shines on our heads, and enlivens the prospect that lies before us: the syren Hope allures us with her fairy dreams, and we imagine that we shall always be happy! But, to-morrow, and the clouds lower, the sun disappears, the tempest howls, and we are tossed on the foaming billows of misfortune, till we become tired of ourselves, and every thing around us. From that moment, life can yield us no farther enjoyment." "These reflections of yours," replied Mr. —, "are too melancholy! Let us turn round and examine the ruins." Dunluce Castle is a monument of more than Feudal greatness: built in a rude age, it is void of much ornament, but bold in the plan, and difficult in its execution. It was evidently designed for a place of strength, in that age in which this unhappy country was divided into petty clans, continually disputing with one another, about their pretended rights and injuries, or for the purposes of rapine and plunder. The Mac Quilans, who were at one period the owners of the lower part of the County Antrim, were the original proprietors of Dunluce Castle. The vicissitudes of fortune, however, transferred it into the possession of the Mac Donalds, who occupied the Castle so late as the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

An old man, whom we met after coming across the bridge from the ruins of the castle, showed us the apartments which were occupied by the Duchess of Buckingham, who lived here some time in the reign of Elizabeth. But whether his information be correct, or not, we had not the means of ascertaining. Being satisfied with the view we had got of the ruins, we descended the rock to see the cave which passes under the castle, through the rock to the sea. Having descended in

the cavern as far the verge of the sea, we began to exercise our voices, and throw stones into the water, for the purpose of witnessing the re-echoing properties of the enormous arch which extended itself above us. Our curiosity being gratified with the scenery which the cave presented, and being refreshed by the cool shade which the place afforded, with considerable difficulty we again clambered up the rock, and got upon the same road by which we had entered. After having got to a small distance upon the road which leads to Port-Ballinray, we turned round, to take a farewell glimpse of the ruins. The castle, when viewed from this place, presents a beautiful appearance. The poetical genius of Mr. — was excited by the prospect, and a long address to the spirits of the heroes who may have once inhabited those walls, which are now the refuge of the sea gull and of the owl, was the consequence.

Without having observed any thing of importance on the road, we arrived at Port-Ballinray in less than half an hour, a distance from Dunluce of about one mile. There are a number of houses built along the margin of the bay, chiefly occupied by lodgers from the neighbouring towns, who retire to this place during the summer months for the purpose of bathing. We walked round to the eastern side of the bay, from which there is a fine view of Sea port, an elegant modern building, in the style of the Scotch villas, presenting a front in three directions. There is a gravelled walk which extends to a considerable distance in the rear of the building, along the rock heads, from which there is a good view of the white rocks, with their natural arches, the mouth of Derry Lough, and the adjacent head-lands.

Finding nothing more in this place

to interest our attention, we continued our journey to Bush-mills, a small village, one mile distant from the place we had last visited, and two from the Giant's Causeway. The day being very pleasant, after having refreshed ourselves at the inn, we continued our route to the Giant's Causeway.

Innumerable descriptions of this great natural curiosity have been laid before the public, by foreigners as well as by our own countrymen. To add any thing new to the information of the public, on a subject so much exhausted by every traveller, would be almost impossible. Dr. Drummond, in his elegant poem entitled "*The Giant's Causeway*," has painted all its beauties. In reading it, new charms, unknown before, or overlooked by the careless observer, present themselves. I cannot dismiss this subject, however, without cautioning strangers who may be induced from curiosity to visit this part of the shore, against a crew of harpies, styling themselves guides. Full of the most degrading obsequiousness, as soon as a stranger arrives, these fellows present themselves, hat in hand, surround him, and torment him with questions. "Sir, have you seen the *whin dykes*?" If he answer no,

"Oh! Sir," he continues, "they are the greatest curiosities in the world; if you please, I shall conduct you." Presently, another coming up, says, "Sir, have you seen the *basaltes*? Have you seen the *causeway*?" And a third, "Sir, will you do me the honour of looking at this; Sir, I shall show you some of the most beautiful spars in the world, with crystallizations the most perfect you have seen, and of various colours and forms: the gentlemen who come here all take of them." In this manner is he perplexed, at a time

when he would most wish to be alone, to meditate on the greatness of the objects before him, and to view those beautiful pillars which nature has cast in so fine a mould.

Having spent a short time in contemplating the sublime scenery which the place presented, we arrived, after having passed through a barren tract of country, at Pleaskin, a distance of nearly three miles. Pleaskin is a grand subject for the painter, uniting in the most perfect degree, the sublime and beautiful. The stupendous height of the rock, its vast magnitude, and the beautiful regularity of the two rows of basaltic columns, which varigate its front at regular distances from each other, strike the mind with all those sentiments which are inspired by sublimity in nature, or beauty in art. The rock is nearly perpendicular down to the base, which juts out to repel the impetuosity of the waves. The appearance of the rocks to the north-west, covered with green, rising in fantastic shapes, and graceful curves above each other, recall to the mind of the beholder the description he has read of fairy prospects. Nature appears to have been in a sportive mood, when they were formed, and to have bestowed beauty on the scenery of Pleaskin, to counterbalance the bleakness of the surrounding country.

The way from Pleaskin to Dun-severic castle lies through a large tract of bog and mountainous country, in passing over which, a traveller is in danger of going astray, and if he be riding, of being tumbled off his horse in leaping the ditches. The justice of both these remarks were verified in the present case, for we lost the way several times in the mountain, and some of us were tossed off our horses in leap-

ing over drains in the bog*. Having surmounted the difficulties which presented themselves in this part of our journey, we arrived at the castle of Dunseveric, intending to inquire concerning its history from the inhabitants of the place; for this purpose Mr. — addressed a countryman of an antique appearance, who was sitting on a broad stone at the end of a hoose a few perches distant from the castle, "Do you know any thing, sir, concerning the history of these old walls?"—"A' that we ken about them," answered he, "is that the're jist stannin' there." Convinced of the truth of what the old man had uttered, we despaired of reaping any farther information, and continued our tour to Ballintoy, concluding that Dunseveric must have been one of those ancient Danish castles which at a certain period variegated the northern shores of Ireland. The small village of Ballintoy presenting nothing worthy of much notice, we arrived in half an hour, after having descended a very steep hill, at Carrick-a rede, an insular rock of great perpendicular height, chiefly remarkable on account of a rope bridge which joins it to the opposite rock. The bridge was made for the purpose of having an easier access to a salmon-fishery which is on the east side of the rock. The evening approaching, we returned home tired with our excursion.

D. H. M.

B—

* On this account, I would advise strangers after having visited Pleaskin, to return to the highway which leads from the Causeway to Ballintoy, in preference to passing through the moor, or high ground by the sea-side.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

FIRST REPORT OF THE SOCIETY FOR
PROMOTING THE EDUCATION OF
THE POOR OF IRELAND.

At a General Meeting of the Society for promoting the education of the poor of Ireland, held at School-street, on Monday, 10th of May, 1813, WILLIAM L. GUINNESS, Esq. in the chair.

A Report from the Committee having been presented and read, it was received and approved of, and is as follows, viz.

The Society for promoting the Education of the Poor of Ireland,* was formed on the 2d of December, 1811, when it was determined that its affairs should be confided to a committee of twenty-one members, who should report to a general meeting of the subscribers, to be held on the second Monday in May in each year.

In conformity with this determination, your committee now proceed to make the second report of the transactions of the society, (which however may be considered the first annual report; the former having been made a few months after its formation,) and in doing so they think it right briefly to notice the *object* for which this society was formed, and the *principle* on which it has been judged expedient to act.

The *object* is single, but extensive: the education of the poor of Ireland, which the first fundamental resolution of the society has well declared, every Irishman anxious for the welfare and happiness of his country ought to have in view, as the basis on which (under the divine blessing)

* The Society is formed of Contributors of not less than ten guineas donation, or one guinea annual subscription.